

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1379 without my signature.

Current law already required the State Board of Education (SBE), in consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), to study the appropriateness of other criteria by which highly proficient pupils who are unable to pass the California High School Exit Exam can demonstrate their competency and receive a high school diploma. The SBE determined that no other criteria are appropriate. I do not want to undermine the intent of the law that all high school graduates demonstrate satisfactory proficiency. Furthermore, nothing under current law prohibits the SPI from undertaking the provisions of this bill without statutory authorization.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger